SKYLAND CHURCH

Skyland Celebration

It took a village and it was great fun!



We had a celebration!

Last Saturday, September 9th, Skyland renewed its long tradition of holding a late summer community event. The Harvest Festival of years past was transformed into this year's "Skyland Celebration". And what a celebration it was!

Inspiration and Preparation

John Heyes had the inspiration for what became our Celebration. A church he attended some years ago, had a celebration around the church's centennial. John said, "maybe we could have a similar event even though Skyland is way past its centennial".

Thank you John!

We talked it over in the Council and later **Jackie Seymour** "allowed" her arm to be twisted to assume leadership of the event.

Thank you Jackie!

Jackie got the event planning kicked off, and then just about the time we needed to get serious about event planning details, she had to go off on her walkabout family vacation to England! **Anne Evans,** our "leader of many Skyland causes", stepped in and with the help of many, detailed the plan for our celebration.

Thank you Anne!

And from there, the event went smoothly from plans to the actual event…..well not quite! Weekly meetings were held to iron out details and then as the Celebration got closer the amount of effort increased seemingly every day. For a few, it was almost a full-time job.

Jeremy Cole was the on-site rep from the Trustees. From being the painting liaison, the tree, stump removal, and chip spreading supervisor, to watering down the grounds, and overall Celebration set up, Jeremy was there.

Thank you Jeremy!

All the work on the church campus over the past month had everything looking great; fresh paint, women's bathroom re-model, Whitaker floors, and paving.









The Skyland campus is Ready

Individual venue set up began after church, on Sunday, the 3rd. The pews were re-arranged to accommodate the History exhibit and Whitaker began receiving art from our mountain artists coordinated by **Nancy Jo Lopp**. The History exhibit was set up during the week by **Anne, John and Linda Heyes, Jan Parker, and Terrie Landini.**

Trustees Jeremy Cole, John Conkle, and Hugh Shyba (supervised by Jackie) spent several hours on Friday setting up tables, chairs, and pop-ups.

Thank you **Trustees!**

Let the Celebration Begin

Final setup was accomplished Saturday morning. And we were lucky, our across the road neighbors, **Dave and Barbara Sidlauska,** made their land available for parking.

Welcome Guests – the Welcome table was set up by **Gina Adams**. During the day both Gina and **Deana Arnold** were at the Welcome station, greeting our guests.

In addition, Deana spent time during the week getting the Community room (nursery) looking great.

Thank you Gina!

Thank you Deana!



Deana at the Welcome Table

History Exhibit – The History Exhibit was a major undertaking and turned out to be a great community interactive venue in the church. People seemed to walk in and stay a while. The exhibit elicited many comments, conversations and "I remember that…". **Anne Evans** planned and organized the exhibit elements along with **John and Linda Heyes, Jan Parker, and Terrie Landini**. The exhibit included:

- Local History - The Loma Prieta Museum
- Skyland Church history
- Native American Awaswas Stewardship
- Significant events – 1989 earthquake
- Significant events – winter storms of 2017 and 2023

A part of the exhibit were sign boards where post-it notes could be added with a personal recollection of the earthquake, storm, etc.

Thank you, History workers, for all your hard work. It really turned out nicely. And…

Thank you Anne!

Art Exhibit – Whitaker Hall was used for an art exhibit featuring local artists. **Nancy Jo Lopp and Anne Evans** did a wonderful job planning the exhibit, contacting the artists, and laying out the exhibit.

The exhibit was enjoyed by adults and children alike. Part of the exhibit was the CT English Middle School Mosaic Beautification art project.

Linda Heyes had a table set up and was demonstrating how to create a mosaic during the afternoon. The local artists that exhibited included:

- Gay Kraeger
- Christina Schwabecher
- Jeanne Tillman
- Shelly Rodgers
- Mary Ellen McTamaney
- Garth Van Ahnen
- Leslie Louden
- Elyse Fairweather
- Liliya Goldie
- Michelle McCune
- Linda Heyes

If you haven't enjoyed the exhibit, stop by Whitaker and take a look. It will be up for several more weeks.

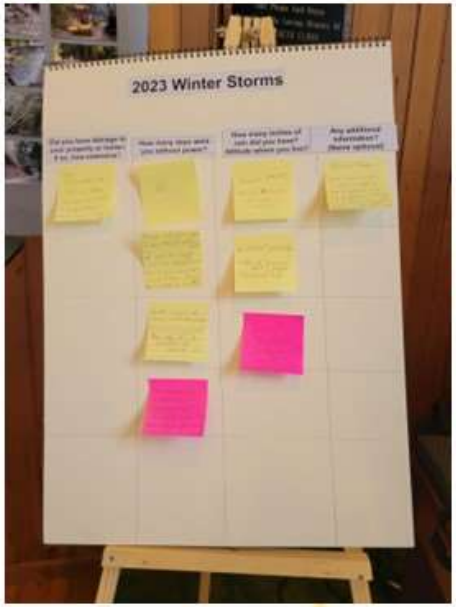
Thank you Nancy Jo and Anne E!

Thank you Linda!















The History Exhibit was a hit – people browsed, conversed, and enjoyed all the different displays.















Art Exhibit at the Celebration

<u>Kids Games and Art</u> – **Jackie** organized and set up two areas for kid-centric activities. The Memorial patio was set up with crayons, drawing pencils, colored markers, colored pencils scissors and paper to encourage the young and young-at-heart to have fun creating their own art project. **Lesley Louden** was there during the early afternoon and **Lynn Mitchell** was there in the later afternoon to help get the kids going on their projects. The children clearly loved creating their own own art projects because the area was almost always busy.

Kids games were set up out in the field. Rev. Melanie's husband **Brian,** her kids **Josh, Matthew**, **Karen** and Karen's friend **Victor** were there the entire day and **Mike Mahrle** and **Ann Baier** helped out during the afternoon. **Jan Parker** and **Lesley Louden** loaned the games — Giant Jinga, Four Across, Twister, Corn Hole, and two (plastic)hatchet throwing targets that proved to be the most popular.

Thank you Jackie, Lesley, Lynn, Brian, Josh, Matthew, Karen, Victor, Mike, and Ann B!







Kid's Games at the Celebration

<u>Pantry Tour</u> – the pantry operation was on display with tours led by **Shannon Edwards, Carol David, Linda Wallace, and Sherry Gomes.** Both the pantry and the storage shed are looking good. Boy, you guys sure have lots of carrots.

A special thanks is due **Mary Ellen McTamaney** for the newly created pantry donation barrel.



Thanks Shannon and pantry volunteers!

Thanks Mary Ellen!

<u>Scrumptious Delights</u> – We had a bake goods and jams and jellies "sale" reminiscent of years past, downstairs in Whitaker. Scrumptious Delights was organized and led by **Jan Parker** with assistance during Friday set up and all day Saturday by **Cheryl Shyba.**



The Scrumptious Delights were scrumptious!

I can personally attest to the delights that were offered. I came home with cookies and jam! The goodies were baked and canned by: **Cheryl Shyba, Sara Steffen, Shannon Edwards, Mike Mahrle, Mary Ellen McTamaney, Patricia Wood, Ann Baier, Deana Arnold, Linda Heyes, Jean Flores, Carol Greene, Jackie Seymour, and Tina Murray**.

Our sale netted over $1100 that was donated to the CT English Middle School Mosaic Beautification art project.

Thanks Jan!

Thanks Cheryl!

And a BIG thanks to all the canners and bakers!!!

Music by the Summit Sisters – Paula Leary and the Summit Sisters provided an afternoon of excellent musical entertainment. The concert start was delayed a bit by loud thunder and a few rain drops. But once the singing and playing started there were many smiling faces and some folks dancing in the wood chips!

Thank you Paula!

Thank you Summit Sisters!

Food by the El Buen Taco Truck – the tacos, burritos, etc, etc. were hot and the drinks were cold.

Thank you!

















Music by the Summit Sisters


















The Celebration was about people enjoying people!

Thank you all for supporting this event and making it the fun day it turned out to be

And then it was Over

And then it ended! And everyone helped put most things away. In addition to everyone already mentioned, this included **Rev. Melanie, Al Feuerbach, and Gerald Alonzo**, and quite possibly a number of people I have missed!

Thank you all. Many hands definitely made the task go quickly.

And make sure you check out the History exhibit, still in the sanctuary, and the Art exhibit, still set up in Whitaker Hall.

Where do we go from Here?

It took a village to create, plan, and hold the Celebration. And it turned out mostly the way we hoped it would. Our Skyland friends and our neighbors came over and had a great time.

Can we, should we make the Celebration into an annual event?

In the coming weeks, let's discuss what we liked about the event, what can be improved, and make some plans for the future.

Photo Credits: Anne Evans, John Conkle, Carol Greene, Leslie Louden, John Heyes